CLAIMS:

1.   A security association establishment negotiation method comprising:

forwarding identifying information and a request for a security association from a Mobile Node via a first interface to a first network element;

forwarding the identifying information and the request for a security association from the first network element to a second network element via a second interface;

performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface to establish a security association between the Mobile Node and the first network element, the second network element utilizing previously stored security association parameters of the Mobile Node; and

upon agreement between the first network element and the second network element with regard to the security association parameters, the first network element forwarding the agreed-upon security association parameters to the Mobile Node via the first interface.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface includes exchanging parameters for the establishment of the Security Association.

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3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the first interface comprises a wireless interface to forward information between the Mobile Node and the first network element.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the first network element is connected to a first gateway.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the first gateway comprises a AAA (Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting) server.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the second network element comprises a subscriber database and an authentication center.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the second network element further comprises a second gateway connected to the subscriber database and authentication center.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the second gateway comprises a AAA (Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting) server.

9.   A security association establishment negotiation apparatus for a Mobile Node, the apparatus comprising:

        a first interface connected to a first network element to forward identifying information and the request for a Security Association from the Mobile Node to the first network element; and

a second interface connected between the first network element and a second network element to forward the identifying information and the request for a Security Association from the first network element to the second network element, the first network element performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element to establish a Security Association between the Mobile Node and the first network element utilizing Security Association parameters of the Mobile Node previously stored in the second network element;

wherein, upon agreement between the first network element and the second network element with regard to the Security Association parameters, the first network element forwarding the agreed-upon Security Association parameters to the Mobile Node via the first interface.

10.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface includes exchanging parameters for the establishment of the Security Association.

11.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first interface comprises a wireless interface to forward information between the Mobile Node and the first network element.

12.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first network element is connected to a first gateway.

13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first gateway comprises a AAA (Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting) server.

14.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second network element comprises a subscriber database and an authentication center.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second network element further comprises a second gateway connected to the subscriber database and authentication center.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the second gateway comprises a AAA (Authentication, authorization, and accounting) server.